

# Permaculture Cairns Newsletter

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



**Care for the Earth, Care for people, Fair share the excess**

Permaculture Cairns Incorporated    Web Site: [www.permaculturecairns.org.au](http://www.permaculturecairns.org.au)

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## PERMACULTURE CAIRNS APRIL MEETING 2018

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 6pm for a 6.30 start

**Please NOTE !!!!!**

Venue: Endeavour Learning and Lifestyle Building  
Corner Monk and Warner Street, Manunda

Members are free, but bring some nibbles for the cuppa break.

Non members \$5

### Agenda

Welcome to new members and visitors

News items - Permaculture workshops, other groups' workshops and events coming up.

People from Ergon will update us on the Renewable Energy scene

Chris will explain a water filtering system he has at home.

Mark will update us on his food forest development

Carol will bring tropical perennial vegetables and herbs for sale or swap.

And some Pigeon pea seeds.

Have something to share?    Bring it up before the cuppa and chat time.

**Meeting close and now time for a chat, a cuppa and a snack with like-minded people**

**All finished by 8.30pm.**

## *April in the cool tropical garden*

*The Veggie Patch.* Surprise, Surprise ! the Wom Bok, Sugar loaf cabbage and Tuscan Kale have survived the rain and are now looking good. Herbs in the garden are going really well. Some of the Italian beans have survived and are setting fruit. All plants will need some help to recover from the stress of heavy rain. Seaweed or fish folia fertilizer would be a good start and then compost, worm castings and dynamic lifter to give back some lost nutrients.

*Tropical Perennial Food Plants now-* The greens all looking lush and happy, they didn't mind the rain at all. The root crops - sweet potato, cocoyam, taro all enjoying this wet humid weather. Lots and lots of Bananas, eight bunches so far.

*What to plant now* -Bare root fruit trees, tropical perennial greens, garlic chives, chives, bunching shallots, turmeric, ginger, galangal, pandan, comfrey.

*Seeds to sow now* - Cabbage, bok choy, rocket, lettuce, basil, beans, cucumber, okra, tomato, capsicum, chives, parsley, basils, melons, pumpkin, daikon radish, radish, celery, broccoli, corn, Florence fennel, wom bok, tatsoi, Kale. Give potatoes and garlic a try. All the herbs will grow really well now the heavy rain is over.

*Moon planting dates* for above ground growing crops 18<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April.  
Edible root crops 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May

*I have been collecting and growing tropical perennial food plants for 10 years and it is still my hobby/passion. I grow to sell or swap, so if you are interested, see me at the next meeting or at one of Permaculture Cairns workshops. Grow & eat fresh pesticide free, nutrient rich food in your landscape all year to keep healthy.*

*Get out and enjoy the great weather, it only takes a few minutes to plant some seeds and it is a joy to go pick from your plantings.*

*Cheers Carol Laing, Editor*

**An urgent message from Frances Michaels of Green Harvest and Gerry Colby Williams about proposed changes to import rules- treating all seeds imported into Australia with a fungicide.**

**This means no new varieties of organic vegetables for Australians. Go to Facebook and Sign the petition, which closes on the 19<sup>th</sup> to save our organic seeds supplies and suppliers.**

**Don't take this lying down, have your say!**



## Permaculture Cairns Gardening Workshop

### COMPOST AND WORMS WORKSHOP

*Who is interested in making Compost and learning  
about keeping worms???*

*There are many ways to make compost: - in bins, in heaps,  
anaerobically, aerobically, in stationary bins, with lots of effort  
and without much effort at all, and depending on how it is done,  
with varying amounts of plant nutrients*

*Compost fertiliser is another way to include humus and  
plant available nutrients at the same time*

*Workshop - Saturday 21st April 9.30 - 12.30.*

*Cost: \$30 for members, \$35 for non members.  
Membership \$20 singles and \$30 families  
You can pay on the day*

**LIMITED NUMBERS FOR THIS WORKSHOP**  
*Venue advised on registration.*

Register at [workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au](mailto:workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au)

*Empowering communities with sustainable solutions*



## *Permi day*

*Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 10am to 2pm*

*Come join us in celebrating International Permaculture Day and our new venue!!!!*

*What is happening on the day*

*Movies that matter*

*Check out the Kitchen garden,*

*Talks about keeping Worms, how to grow food in a Haybale garden and in a patio Wicking bed*

*At*

*Endeavour Living and Lifestyle Building*

*Cnr Monk and Warner Streets*

*Manunda*

*Bring a plate of food to share and let's have lunch and talk Permaculture, or worms or compost or organic gardening, solar energy, recycling waste, saving the reef*

*Permaculture Empowering communities with sustainable solutions*

# Permaculture Cairns Gardening Workshop



Who wants to come to a tasty practical and fun workshop????

On

*Growing Tropical Perennial Vegetables and eating them steamed, in salads, stirfrys and in frittatas.*

*Get healthy and save money by growing pesticide free, fresh nutrient rich food at home in pots or in your landscape.*

*These greens can be grown all year round to feed your family in your landscaping, as ground covers - Okinawa, Sambung, Brazilian, Ceylon and Talium, aka as Leaf Ginseng.*

*Bunching shallots, garlic chives, Lebanese cress, parsley, chives, rocket, lettuce can be grown as edge plants in garden beds.*

*Grow the protein rich Sweet Leaf as a shrub or hedge and the nutrient rich Moringa tree in the garden or as a potted plant.*

*Many of these plants have medicinal uses so check them out on google.*

*We will harvest these plants fresh from a Permaculture garden and proceed to a kitchen to make a delicious lunch.*

*Interested? I need numbers so contact me asap so I can plan a workshop on a Saturday morning in late May or early June*

*Carol Laing*

*Permaculture Cairns*

Register at [Workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au](mailto:Workshops@permaculturecairns.org.au)

*Empowering communities with sustainable solutions*

# FNQ Community Exchange - LETS: Local Energy Trading System

## April 2018 Calendar of EVENTS

The April 2018 calendar is available online: <http://www.fnqces.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/LETS-CALENDAR-APR-2018.pdf> It is also attached as a pdf, and pasted below.

We have 2 workshops, 1 working bee and 4 regular trades this month! Plenty of opportunities for relocalisation, learning, earning Bartles, trading, socialising and more!

MOUNT MOLLOY – no LETS stall at the Markets for April. Phone Lyn 4094 1431 for further information.

RAVENSHOE – Tuesday 3rd April from 2pm Octopi Garden Sanctuary. Bring along something to trade, a friend and a positive vibe. Trading and sharing is key to the success of all events no matter the numbers. Most importantly have fun!  
Event Host: Hayley 0416 528 177

MILLAA MILLAA – Saturday 14th April 9-11am - Kate & Alain's Working Bee - 79 Campbell Rd Millaa Millaa, off Brooks Rd (the road Mungalli Dairy is on). 25B per hour – EARN WHILE YOU LEARN. Kids welcome by arrangement. BYO water bottle, hat, boots, gloves, shared snacks and picnic mat/chair for optional smoko afterwards (tea and coffee provided). Also shovels, trowels, wheelbarrows, secateurs if you can. PROJECT 1 - Dig trenches for covered raised garden beds. Fill with cut up branches and prunings. Replace soil on top and bevel sides. Mulch new raised garden bed and possibly plant into it. This is a Hügélkultur-inspired project. PROJECT 2 - Dig a shallow pit in a drainage area, fill it with rocks/stones/coarse gravel, line that with cardboard, put the soil back in, then plant things in it that can take up large amounts of nutrient and turn it into large amounts of foliage for using as mulch. On offer: planting material of various plants by arrangement. Please RSVP Kate - [kmartignier@mailfence.com](mailto:kmartignier@mailfence.com) or text 0429 925 246 by 7 th April so she can have other jobs lined up if lots of people come.

TULLY - Tuesday 17th April from 5.30pm Trade & Tostadas in Tully. Big undercover carport to set up trades in – some spare little tables available. 5.30pm for garden tour and plant-dig-up, trade at 6.30pm, Mexican-themed meal (awesome frijoles, salsa and sour-cream!) at 7.30pm, 117 Tully Gorge Rd [3rd drive on left after Syndicate Rd] only 2km from Tully Post Office. Bring along something to trade and food to share – maybe avo's or corn-chips, or fruit, or even tequila! This is a great event to attend! Event Host: Michael 4068 3669 or text only 0439 729 469 – RSVPs encouraged!

YUNGABURRA - Friday 20th April from 10-11.30am - that retro cafe, Yungaburra - CES Workshop: A Beginners course in LETS - How to use the Online Community Exchange System. Don't know how to place an Offer or to look something up on the Wants list? No clue where to find your account statement? Or how to find other Users? This course is FREE! Event Host: Katrin 4096 6755

WALKAMIN - Sunday 22nd April from 11am-1pm – 10 Cassia Street, Walkamin. Bring goods to trade, there are plenty of tables and chairs for you to use. Barbecue available for a shared meal. Event Host: Gloria - [lavender1960@outlook.com](mailto:lavender1960@outlook.com)

YUNGABURRA - Saturday 28th April from 12-2pm that retro cafe Trade Afternoon. The RED SHEDS SHOPS 20 Eacham Road, Yungaburra. Bring along something to trade a rug to display your wares. That retro cafe is offering 100% Bartles for drinks from the menu, you will need cash for lunch and drinks from the display fridge. On the Verandah is offering pre-loved clothing for 100% Bartles. Event Host: Melitta 4095 2340

ATHERTON - Sunday 29th April 11am-1pm - Tropical Salads Workshop at Irene's Edible Garden. Heart healthy & Diabetic friendly. \$5 + 5B per person, includes 2-course lunch. Contact Irene – [wheelieeasy@gmail.com](mailto:wheelieeasy@gmail.com). RSVPs encouraged!

The next "big" event is Saturday 9th June at Kewarra Beach - a Winter Pizza Lunch Party. More details to come.

See you soon!  
Bel & Katrin

FNQ Community Exchange Administration  
Email: [tbce@communityexchange.net.au](mailto:tbce@communityexchange.net.au)  
Web: <http://www.tablelandlets.org/>

What to bring to Trade Events where not specified above: food & drinks for yourself or to share, or money and/or Bartles at some venues, friends, Trading Record Sheet and pen or smart phone to enter trades direct, any goods you wish to trade, table/rug to display them upon is often useful, your own chair at some venues, promotional material of any services you are offering if applicable, \$20 if you don't yet have an FNQ CES account (one-off fee).



## The Preparations – the Heart of Biodynamic Agriculture

Sunday 15th April 2018, 10am – 4pm

Tranquil Valley, RM 42, Foxwell Rd, Malanda,

Enter Foxwell Rd via Atherton-Malanda Rd, first drive on right.

Drive to bottom and park

Bring plate to share for lunch or smoko.

Bring chair and wear covered shoes.

[www.biodynamicsfno.org.au](http://www.biodynamicsfno.org.au)

GROWER AIMS TO REDUCE FERTILISER RATE BY 30%



**Less is more for Ingham cane grower Brad Morley who has cut back on fertilisers and tillage in a swag of changes to his farm which are bringing results.**

The third-generation cane farmer reduced synthetic fertiliser use by 20 per cent - and is now aiming for 30 per cent. He has also abandoned his discs, full-size ripper and rotary hoe.

“We are moving away from some of the traditional farming practices and our crops look better and healthier for it,” Mr Morley said.

He started trialling minimum tillage methods seven years ago and has since planted legumes as a fallow crop and begun modifying machinery to suit wider cane rows, thanks to grant funding from the Australian Government’s Reef Trust III program, which is being delivered by the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP).

A new round of grants is now open and Mr Morley is encouraging farmers to get on board.

He is using his grant funding to widen a zonal ripper, high-rise spray tractor and planter as part of a move to ‘controlled traffic’ by widening crop rows to a minimum of 1.8m to suit the width of modern heavy harvesting equipment.

The change is reducing soil compaction, improving soil and root health and helping him to get maximum benefit from his other fallow and tillage practices.

A whole-of-farm change to crop row widths will take another five years.

“It’s worth it. With this change and the others, we are seeing a big improvement in stool size and we’re getting longer ratoons,” Mr Morley said. “Our overheads for fuel and machinery wear and tear have reduced and so has erosion. We’re also finding we are able to get back on paddocks more quickly after rain because of harder inter-rows.

“And there has been no loss in yield or sugar content in the process.”

The latest, and final, round of [Reef Trust III water quality grants](#) closes on Friday 27 April.

The grants focus on improving nutrient, herbicide and sediment practices within integrated farming systems. Eligible project types include advanced nutrient management, controlled-traffic, legume break-cropping, reduced tillage, reduced residual-herbicide use and integrated farm drainage.

Mr Morley said his grant was accelerating change on his farm.

“I’ve been able to do this in stages with the 50-50 funding and extension support from WTSIP,” he said.

“There is only one way to find out if different farming methods work on your farm. You’ve got to try it, even if it’s only on a very small portion of the farm initially.”

Written by [Elaine Seager](#)

From the Terrain NRM Newsletter 12/4/2018

**Soil Health Innovation Tour**

Julie Lightfoot  
April 5, 2018

Compost, bio-fertilisers and even chickens are being used to improve farm soils in the Wet Tropics and beyond.

A soil health innovation tour has shed new light on the latest methods farmers are trialling to regenerate soils, boost returns and better protect the environment on sugar, banana, tropical fruit and grazing properties.

Thirty farmers from Mossman to Mackay toured southern Queensland and New South Wales recently to learn more about a range of innovative soil management practices from compost and bio char production to fallow cover cropping and minimal chemical use.

Terrain NRM's Michael Waring said the trip gave farmers first-hand information on soil health initiatives that could be applied to North Queensland properties.

"Growers who came on the tour are already actively working to improve soil health on their properties through investments of both time and money," Mr Waring said.

"This trip was about fresh ideas, sharing the results of innovative practices, learning from others first-hand and strengthening projects that are already underway."

Farmers visited bio-fertiliser and bio char manufacturers and primary producers using commercial-scale compost systems or multi-cover cropping practices. They also heard from planned grazing specialist Judi Earl, visited a soil test laboratory and stayed at 'The Living Classroom' at Bingara.

The trip was organised by Terrain NRM in partnership with Central Queensland Soil Health Systems, with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, Terrain NRM's Regional Landcare Facilitator and Reef Catchments.

Mossman grazier and tropical fruit farmer Carmen Henning-White said hearing from a diverse range of primary producers and business owners had been invaluable.

"I've come away with new ideas, like a worm farm, that I can incorporate into my pastures and tropical fruits," she said.

Ingham cane farmer David Morselli said a strong focus on soil was crucial.

"It doesn't matter who you speak to, whether it is cattle people or veggie people, at the end of the day we are all using the same thing, and that's soil," he said.

Farmers visited a commercial carrot farm at Kalbar where radishes, corn and onions are now grown in a cycle for three years between carrot crops to regenerate the soil. They also visited a pecan farm where woodchips from pruned pecan branches have become a competitive second industry.

"These woodchips are being used by meat smoking businesses and are worth nearly as much as the nuts," Terrain NRM's Michael Waring said. "Diversification was another focus during our five-day tour. A lot of the farmers we visited are long-standing innovators, including a husband and wife team who produce organic grass-fed beef and free-range eggs while also reaping the benefits of soil health by rotating the hens through the pastures in mobile sheds to forage while providing an organic fertiliser for the soil with their manure.

"This kind of initiative is also happening in our region but is fairly new to the Wet Tropics."

Terrain NRM's Regional Landcare Facilitator Jen Redway said visiting the EAL Soil Laboratory at Southern Cross University was also invaluable.

“Some of our farmers use this lab and for others it was a chance to see first-hand how easy and useful soil tests are and the speed of turnaround from a test to getting answers that help to improve soil biology on-farm and help farmers to continue to move away from chemical fertilisers,” she said.

From the Terrain NRM Newsletter April



The Great Barrier Reef belongs to all of us and everyone has a role in ensuring this great natural icon is protected for future generations to enjoy just like we do.

No matter where you live, you can undertake actions that are good for the marine environment and show your support for the Great Barrier Reef.

There are lots of little things you can do [at home](#), [at work](#), and [at school](#) to help the environment and the Reef.

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## Help us keep an Eye on the Reef

[Eye on the Reef](#) is a powerful monitoring program that enables anyone who visits the Great Barrier Reef to contribute to its long-term protection. The program brings together five assessment and monitoring programs that collect valuable information about reef health, marine animals and incidents.

- [Sightings Network](#)
- [Rapid Monitoring](#)
- [Tourism Weekly Monitoring](#)
- [Reef Health and Impact Surveys](#)
- [Eyes and Ears Incident Reporting Network](#)

These programs enable people from all walks of life — Marine Park rangers, marine tourism staff, scientist, fishers, tourists and other reef users — to report their Reef sightings and observations to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Get involved with other Reef monitoring programs:

- Great Barrier Reef Foundation citizen science
- [ReefBlitz](#) – discover, identify and record the plants and animals living in and around our
- [Seagrass-Watch](#) – monitor the condition and trend of nearshore seagrass ecosystems
- [CoralWatch](#) – monitor coral health

## Become a strandings response volunteer

Free online training is now available for those who want to help marine turtles stranded on the Great Barrier Reef coastline. The training package for volunteers has been developed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA).

The training package includes eight modules that can be completed at the user's own pace, interactive presentations with videos, audio, graphics and reading, across a series of learning modules. Email [gbr-strandings@npsr.qld.gov.au](mailto:gbr-strandings@npsr.qld.gov.au) to request access to the training.

## **Join our online community**

Join our [online community](#) of people who care about the Great Barrier Reef. Learn about the work being undertaken to protect the Reef and share your stories, photos and videos of the Reef.

## **Community consultation**

[Community consultation](#) is an important process that allows you to provide formal feedback on matters relating to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

## **Visit Reef HQ Aquarium**

At [Reef HQ Aquarium](#), our national education centre for the Great Barrier Reef, you can learn more about what makes the Reef a special place. You can also volunteer at Reef HQ or donate to our [Turtle Hospital](#), which helps care for sick or injured turtles so they can become healthy and be released back in to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

## **Become a Reef Guardian**

Our [Reef Guardian](#) Program includes schools, councils, farmers and fishers. While Reef Guardians are located throughout the Great Barrier Reef catchment, no matter where you live you can undertake Reef Guardian-inspired activities.

## **Join environmental activities and groups**

Throughout the Great Barrier Reef catchment area there are [organisations, activities and events](#) helping protect the Reef. Get involved in a community group near you and start working towards a sustainable Reef.

## **Make a difference at home, work or school**

[Take actions at home, work or school](#) that are good for the marine environment. The Great Barrier Reef is closer than you think. Activities taking place on the land can impact on the Reef.

## **Be responsible out on the water**

If you're lucky enough to visit the Great Barrier Reef help protect plants, animals and habitats by following the [zoning rules](#) and [responsible reef practices](#). You can also be our eyes and ears to ensure others follow your lead - [report any incidents](#) or suspected offences you have witnessed.

Please PRINT – SIGN – SCAN and RETURN by email to  
treasurer@permaculturecairns.org.au.



## Permaculture Cairns

### Membership Form 2018

One year's membership fee - 1 Jan – 31 Dec:

- Household membership \$30     Renewing Member      
 Individual membership    \$20     New Member

Name(s) of all applicant(s) & DOB if under 18yrs):

.....  
.....  
.....

Postal Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Phone(s): .....

Email: .....

Signature: .....

Payment may be made at Meetings, at Cairns Penny or Online Direct Deposit to Permaculture Cairns A/c at Cairns Penny in Grafton Street. BSB704-966 A/c No. 100009440 please include your Surname as reference.

If you have a Permaculture Design Certificate could you please complete the following survey.

YOUR NAME:.....

Who was the Course Presenter:.....

When did you do the Course:.....

Where did you do the Course:.....

### Enquiries

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